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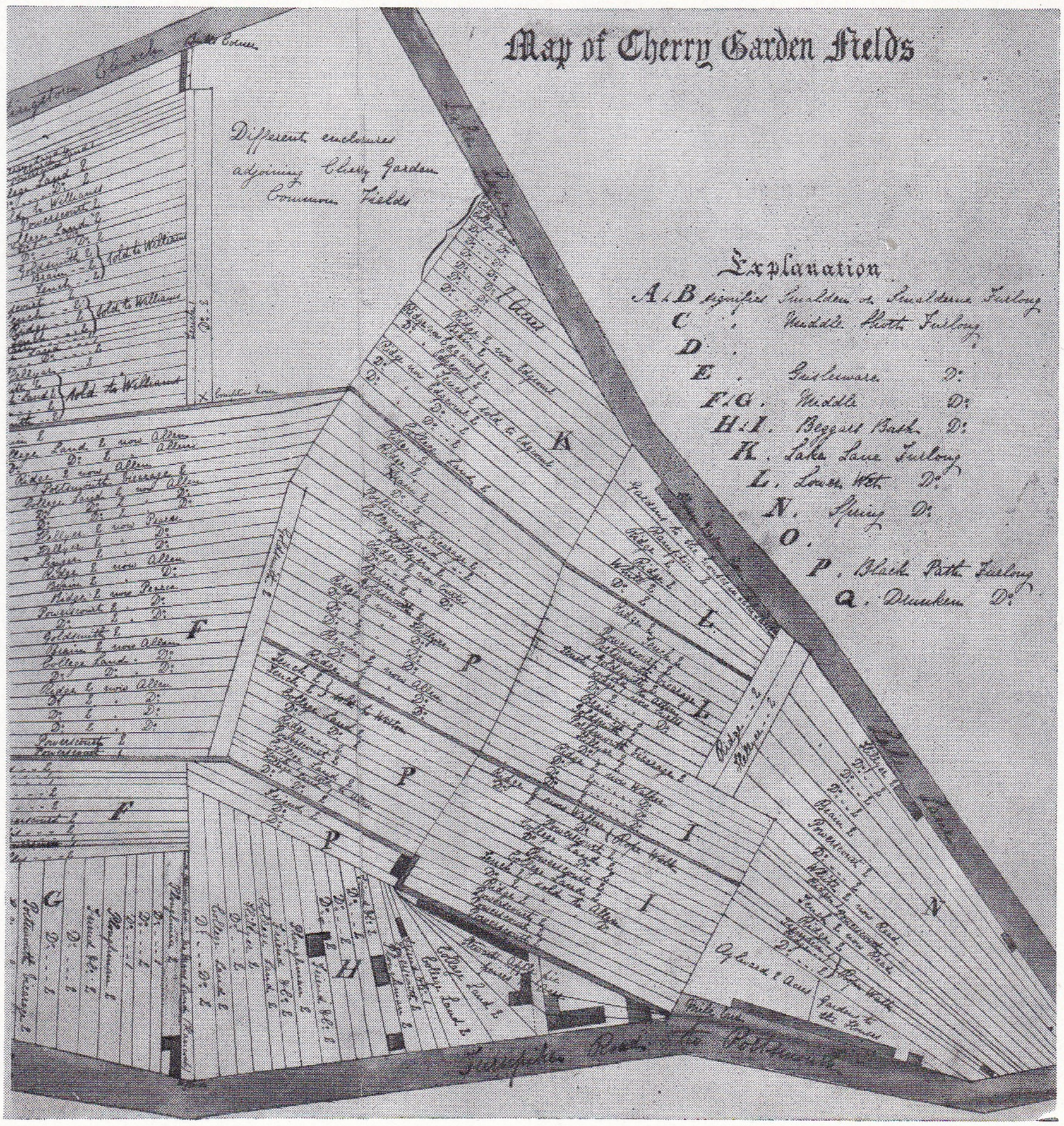

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Cover:
Cherry Garden Field about 1800. North is to the left and the roads shown are the modern Lake Road, and Commercial Road. The beginnings of buildings on the strips can be seen, but the field is still almost intact.

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THE COMMON LANDS OF PORTSEA ISLAND

John Chapman, MA, PhD(Lond)

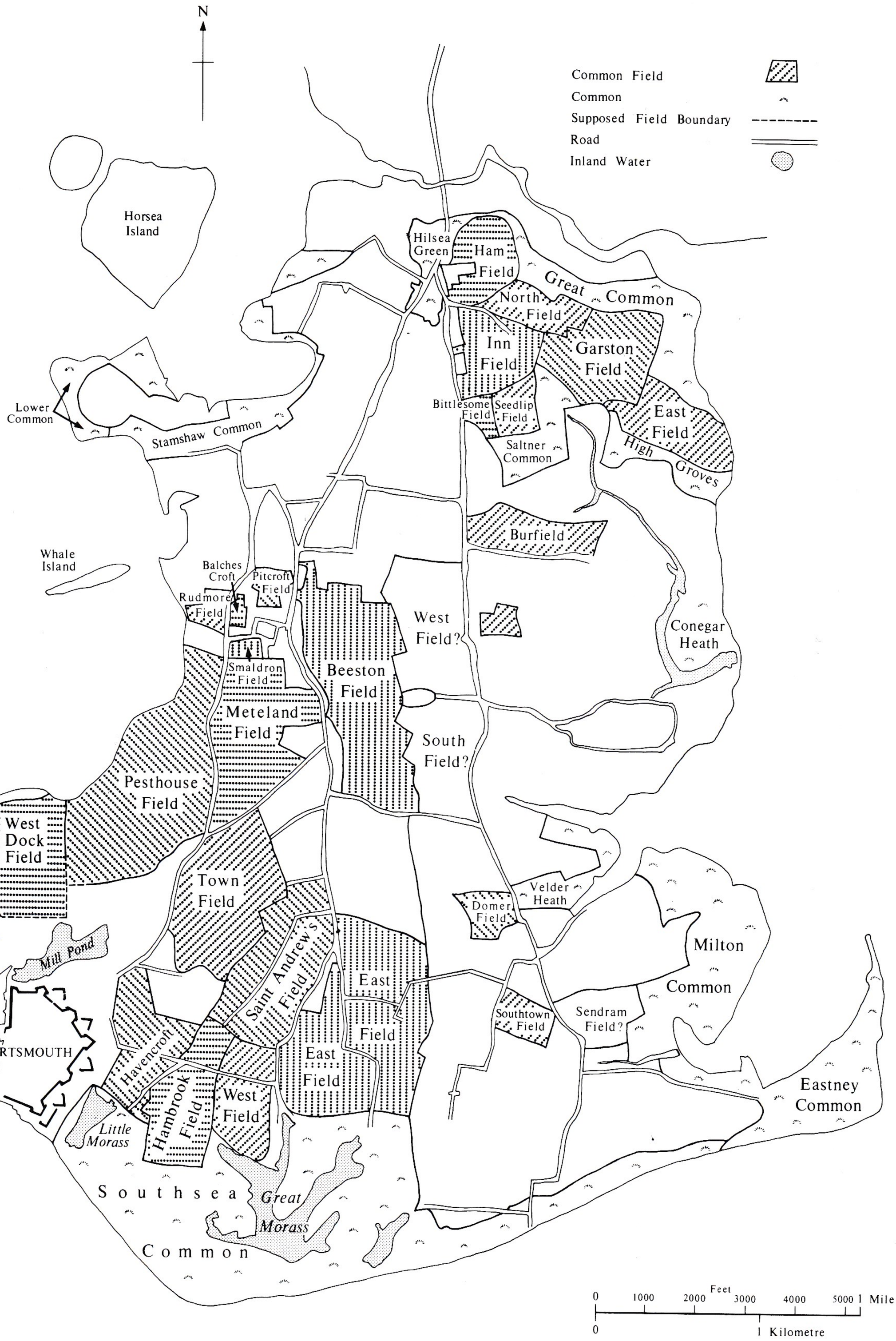
Although the city of Portsmouth now covers the whole of Portsea Island and, indeed, sprawls far beyond it, until well into the nineteenth century this was not so. Portsmouth occupied a small area in one corner of the island; elsewhere land now covered by city streets was agricultural, supporting a substantial farming population. A little of this land was held 'in severalty', the farmer being free to manage it as he wished, but much of the island, even into the nineteenth century, was dominated by communal systems of farming which imposed severe restrictions on his freedom of action. It is with these communal systems that this paper is concerned. A large portion of the arable land formed part of 'common fields', which were subject to traditionally ordained patterns of cropping enforced by the manorial courts, and which had to be thrown open to the stock of all local farmers once the crop had been harvested. The properties of the various owners lay scattered in a multitude of narrow strips, which were grouped in blocks known as 'furlongs'. Much of the non-arable land was similarly under communal control. Though technically owned by the lord of the manor, these 'commons' or 'common wastes' were subject to the inalienable right of local inhabitants to depasture their animals upon them. In some cases 'stints' were imposed, regulating the numbers and types of animals which could be turned loose and the dates between which they had to be removed: in others the area was 'unstinted', and the farmer could depasture as many animals as he wished. Such communal systems dominated the farming life of medieval Portsea, and only very gradually did the process of 'enclosure', or division of the lands amongst their owners for holding in severalty, slacken their grip.

In the Middle Ages, Portsea Island contained, in addition to the town of Portsmouth, a number of agricultural villages. Not all of these had separate independent groups of common fields, but five such groupings can be discerned. The most northerly was associated with the village of Hilsea which, although situated on the island, was administratively linked with Wymering, and had few links with its neighbours. Copnor and Milton each possessed their own fields, as, too, did Fratton. The largest and most complex group was that associated with Portsmouth itself, for this was shared with Buckland and Kingston, and had a curiously elongated distribution, which meant that parts of the system were very inconveniently situated for the inhabitants of some of the settlements it was supposed to serve. Much of the remainder of the island was marshy common grazing land, and the only extensive tract not subject to some form of communal control was Stubbington Farm, which had presumably once been run directly as a grange by its proprietors, Southwick Priory.

Detailed study of the fields is complicated by difficulties over nomenclature. In the first place, it is not always easy to determine to which of the groupings a record refers, even where the residence of the owner or occupier is given. From an early date it was not unusual for landowners and even tenants to acquire land outside the area in which they lived, and it is not always made clear in the documents that the land referred to lay elsewhere on the island. Where the land bore a name such as West Field the possibilities for confusion are considerable, for Copnor, Fratton and Milton all possessed common fields of this name. Fratton, in particular, presents problems of this type, for the location of the village at one end of its fields encouraged the acquisition of adjacent lands in Portsmouth-Buckland and Milton, and its field names were such that confusion is extremely easy. For example, at the enclosure of Milton common fields in 1693, one Peter Bacon, described as a yeoman of Fratton, received, amongst other lands, 24½ acres of Milton West Field, which in a less specific document might easily have been attributed to Fratton West Field[1].

Secondly, it is worth noting that not even contemporaries were always careful in their use of terms like 'common' or 'common field', and since many names persisted in use long after the land to which they referred had changed its status, there is the added problem of distortion due to fading memories. Perhaps the most significant example is Portsmouth Common, which gave its name in the eighteenth century to the whole new town later known as Portsea. It is frequently implied that the area was common waste, as the name would suggest, but in fact the majority of the mid eighteenth century buildings were situated on the former West Dock Common Field, and later developments impinged increasingly on the neighbouring East Dock Field[2]. In Fratton the Court Baron records continued to refer to lands as lying in a particular field long after the fields had been enclosed[3], and errors began to creep in, such as the reference to Touchhope Furlong as Touchhope Field, in a transcription of an earlier document[4].

A third source of confusion arises from the existence of alternative names for many fields. In some cases, an early name was completely replaced by a later, while in others two different ones persisted side by side over a period of some centuries. Ports-


N
Common Field
Common
Supposed Field Boundary
Road
Inland Water
Horsea Island
Hilsea Green
Ham Field
Great Common
North Field
Inn Field
Garston Field
East Field
High Groves
Bittlesome Field
Seedlip Field
Saltner Common
Lower Common
Stamshaw Common
Whale Island
Balches Croft
Pitcroft Field
Rudmore Field
Smaldron Field
Meteland Field
Beeston Field
West Field?
South Field?
Burfield
Conegar Heath
Pesthouse Field
West Dock Field
Town Field
Velder Heath
Domer Field
Milton Common
Mill Pond
Saint Andrew's Field
East Field
Southtown Field
Sendram Field?
PORTSMOUTH
Havencroft
Hambrook Field
West Field
Eastney Common
Little Morass
Great Morass
Southsea Common
Feet
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 1 Mile
0 1 Kilometre

COMMON LANDS OF PORTSEA ISLAND – The map shows the maximum proven extent of each of the commons and fields. Several of these are known to have been much larger, and a number have been omitted entirely since their exact location is in doubt. Alternative names of fields are given in the appendix.

mouth itself suffers particularly badly from this point of view. Thus the name Town Field was apparently a later term for what had earlier been known as Mere or Mury Field, and the two then remained as interchangeable forms until the final disappearance of the field in the nineteenth century[5]. Similarly, Cherry Garden Field was adopted as a late alternative to the much older Meteland Field, and the name Kingston Field was also sometimes used[6]. Rudmore and Ratkins, or Ropkins, appear to have originated as distinct parts of the same field, but were often used as alternative names for the whole area[7]. Most confusing of all is East Dock Field. The original form of this was probably Fountain Field[8], and East Dock Field must have gained currency following the development of the Dockyard in 1495[9]. Then, in 1693, the building of an 'isolation hospital' on the edge of the field led to growing use of the term Pesthouse Field. It was initially sometimes referred to as 'the field by the pesthouse', but by 1696 the name had already been formalised[10]. Nevertheless another document still referred to it as 'Fountain alŝ East Dock' as late as 1723[11], and though Fountain Field gradually became obsolete, East Dock and Pesthouse both remained in common use into the nineteenth century.

Of the other groups, only Fratton presents serious problems of this type. Here Church Field and East Field seem to have referred to the same area, for although both names occur side by side in the 'Rentale', the East Field of the enclosure agreement apparently incorporated both areas[12]. Similarly, the 'Wish Field' of the enclosure documents was probably the 'West Field' of the Rentale and of the Court Baron[13]. In this case, however, it is likely that the duplication was due to an error by the Elizabethan surveyor who, misled by the existence in the same area of Wish Lane, Wish Gate and Wish Furlong, wrongly transcribed 'West' as 'Wish'. Certainly there appears to be no other extant document in which 'Wish' is used as a field name.

Such mis-statements are a further regular cause of difficulty, for contemporary surveyors and cartographers were frequently not locals, and mis-heard or mis-read names are numerous. The De Gomme map of 1668, for example, records Havencroft as Hanew Crofts Fields[14]. Later authors have also added their quota of errors, for a mis-transcription of Touchhope in a copy of a document made in the nineteenth century[15] appears to have been responsible for the 'Tenthenoupe Field' of Howell and East[16], while a mythical Binfield in Copnor derives from a wrong reading of Burfield in a list of the rights of Copnor manor[17]. Similarly, Velder Common, Milton, appears in the *Victoria County History of Hampshire*[18], as Velder Common Field, whereas in reality it was common waste, the fields having vanished over a century earlier.

The Portsmouth System

In looking at the individual systems in detail, one is drawn inevitably to begin with Portsmouth, for this was the most complex and interesting. Whereas all the others show the typical pattern of a single village surrounded by its fields, the Portsmouth system was shared by three widely separated settlements. Furthermore, the town of Portsmouth, which ultimately became the dominant settlement within the group, was the last to come into existence, and indeed seems to have been created some time after the field system with which it became associated. The original core of this system lay in the village of Buckland, which was already long established by the time of the earliest references to Portsmouth, and it seems likely that some form of communal agricultural system had already evolved there by the twelfth century. No evidence exists to suggest what form this took, but it is tempting to postulate that at some stage a simple two-field system may have been operated using the two large fields, Beeston and Meteland, which bordered the village to the east and west respectively. Pitcroft may have been added as the third field in a later three-field system, while the smaller Smaldron and Balches Croft Fields must have been the product of still later reclamation, consequent upon rising population in Buckland itself.

The development of Portsmouth introduced complications. Though it was almost certainly a fishing and trading centre from the start, and owed its prosperity as a town to its role as a military base, it nevertheless had a substantial farming population up to the eighteenth century[19] and during the Middle Ages must have relied on its own lands for a significant part of its food. Initially the lands were those of Buckland, for the two settlements were part of the same manor, and the earliest records show Portsmouth farmers with sizeable holdings in Pitcroft, Beeston, and Meteland Fields. However, this group of fields was a considerable distance from the town, and it seems reasonable to assume that Fountain, Mere and Havencroft Fields were created from the waste as a result of Portsmouth growth, and

principally to serve its inhabitants. The last two are recorded in the earliest documents available, and Mere was on a par in terms of size with Beeston and Meteland at least by the fifteenth century, but Fountain is more difficult to trace. The earliest reference to it is in 1492[20], though it is possible that it should be equated with a mysterious Heath Field recorded in 1469[21], or that the various references to lands by furlong rather than field were to this area. If the former were the case, then it is a little surprising that both Fountain and Heath should occur in the 1492 document without any indication that they were synonyms, while in the latter a name such as Wet Furlong, though certainly used in Fountain Field, also occurred in both Mere and Meteland, preventing any certainty over its location. However, even if all these references applied to Fountain Field, it was clearly comparatively unimportant in the fifteenth century, and was probably still in the process of reclamation from the rough ground alongside the harbour.

West Dock Field emerged still later, as a result of a division of Fountain Field. The original field probably became unwieldy due to further reclamation, and by the 1650s two separate ones had been created from it[22]. These took the names East Dock Field and West Dock Field, 'Dock Field' having been used as an occasional alternative to Fountain since the creation of the Dock in 1495[23]. The name Fountain Field was preserved as a synonym for the eastern part, and West Dock Field henceforth operated entirely independently.

The final field in the group, Rudmore, was remote from both Portsmouth and Buckland and has all the appearance of a late extension to the system. It was small, and the name itself seems to mean either 'the cleared moor' or 'the reed moor'[24], both of which would indicate relatively late reclamation. It was in existence as a field by 1469[25], but was probably a later creation than all except West Dock Field.

It is clear that, nominally at least, the fields of Portsmouth were common fields in the strictest sense and were subject to both communally enforced crop rotations and common grazing rights. The field, not the furlong, seems to have been the unit of rotation, and fields were frequently referred to by the crop which they contained, rather than by name. The references indicate three courses of wheat, barley and fallow[26], but on how the many fields were fitted into such a rotation the documents remain mute. It is possible that there were three accepted groupings of fields, but there is no evidence to prove this, and it is equally possible that some of the fields may have operated independently from the point of view of rotation. Where the internal evidence permits a specific identification of a field referred to by crop, it was always one of Meteland, Mere or Fountain. Beeston, on the other hand, is, as far as can be ascertained, always mentioned by name and may have stood outside the system.

The communally-imposed rotations seem to have persisted until the seventeenth century. The use of crop-names to indicate the field was still normal until the end of that century, and the courts were still attempting to maintain the system, at least in the early part. A prohibition on illegal cropping practices was formally noted by the Court Leet in 1621, though the fact that the Mayor was empowered to grant exemptions may have nullified its effect[27]. By the end of the century, however, the situation had changed. When Portsmouth suddenly burst from its constraining walls the common fields began to disintegrate[28]. As more and more strips were taken for building purposes the maintenance of a rotation by field ceased to be practicable, even if anyone had wished to maintain it. In fact, the fields were increasingly seen in terms other than their agricultural value and the Court Leet fought a losing battle in West Dock Field against men such as Henry Smith who persistently dug up the land to obtain gravel and clay for building purposes[29]. The last reference to a field by crop is in 1680[30], after which it would appear that communal rotations ceased to be even nominally maintained in the fields adjoining Portsmouth.

Communal grazing rights were exercised over both fields and common waste. Evidence of this is more detailed than that of rotations, and it is possible to see that the system of rights changed through time. The earliest known version of the rights over the fields now survives only at third hand, in Gates' printing of a transcription made in 1723 by George Huish of an original believed to date from just after 1256[31]. The possibility of errors being introduced in the course of these copyings is considerable, and indeed parts of the document, as given in Gates, make little sense. However, there is no reason to suppose that the section on rights is substantially incorrect, though parts were illegible when Huish made his copy. Apparently a burgess was entitled to depasture two cattle and as many horses as he required, while a tenant of a burgess was allowed one cow and one horse. In addition, 15 sheep were permitted for every five acres held in the fields. A further clause records that hogs, as well as cattle,

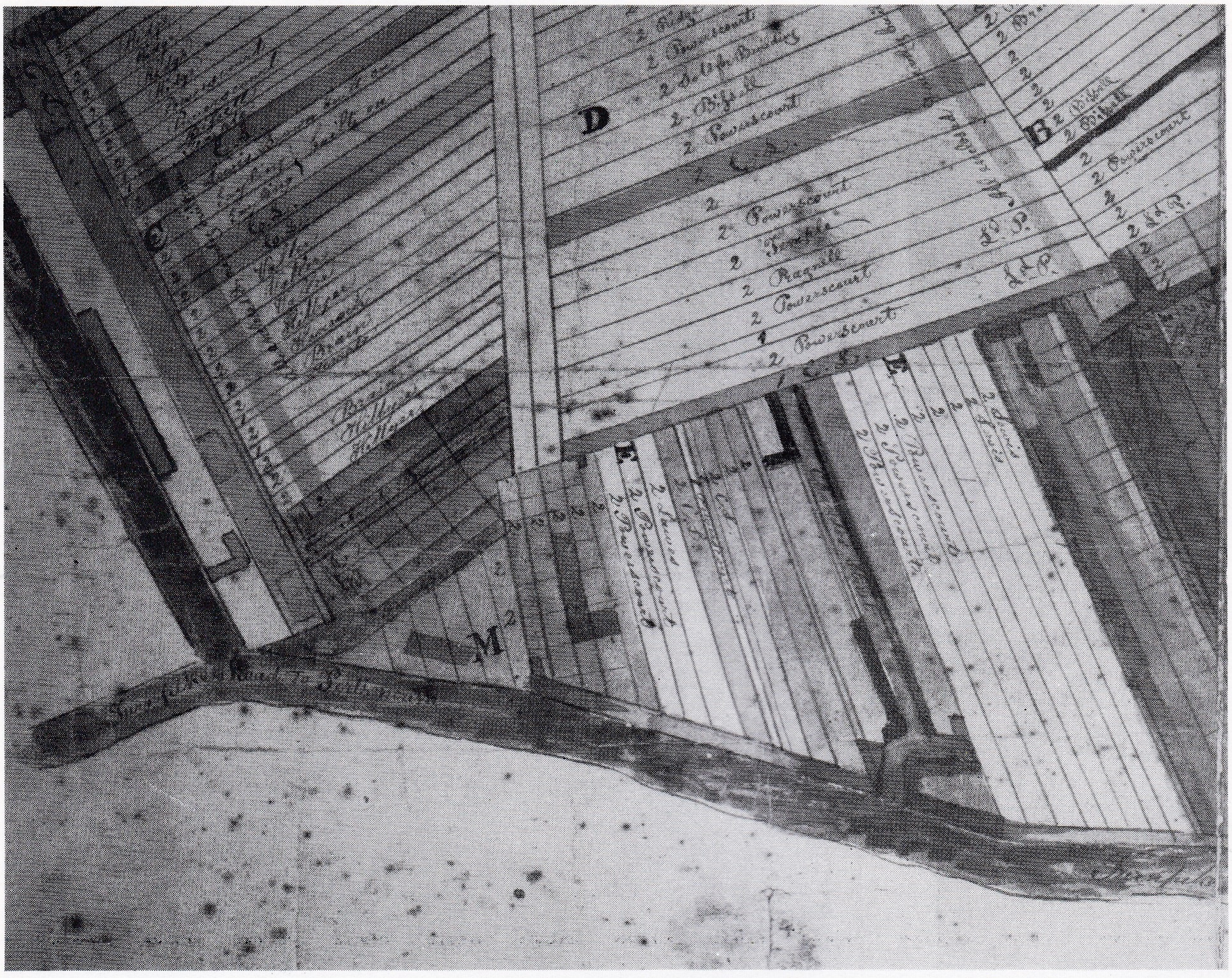
SITE OF PITCROFT FIELD – Though Portsea Island seems so flat at first sight, there are minor variations in relief which were agriculturally important. The earlier fields, such as Pitcroft, occupied the higher, better drained land and the sharp fall in level shown here marked the edge of the field. The lower, wetter land beyond was used as marshy pasture.

could be turned on the fields between the grain harvest and sowing time.

By the eighteenth century these regulations had been significantly altered. The stint for landholders had been increased to 20 sheep or pigs per five acres, with one horse or two cows as alternatives, and that of the burgess reduced to one horse[32]. However, these regulations in turn were superseded, for when they were produced by the Town Clerk in evidence to the Enclosure Commissioners in 1817, they were greeted with hostile incredulity by contemporary farmers. Witness after witness flatly denied their validity, and one Robert Moses, aged 70, gave the stint operating in his lifetime as one horse or two cows per three acres. All were adamant that burgesses possessed no rights, and after due investigation the Commissioners agreed with them. They could find no evidence of burgesses ever having exercised rights of pasture[33].

These changes in the nature of the rights closely correspond with the evolution of the town of Portsmouth. In the early years agriculture played a substantial role as far as its inhabitants were concerned, and some burgesses doubtless made full use of their rights. With the passing centuries, the inhabitants of the town became increasingly involved with trade and industry, and their rights were allowed to fall into disuse, with the result that by 1817 even the memory of their existence had vanished.

As far as common wastes were concerned, Portsmouth possessed both local commons on Portsea Island and also rights in the Forest of Bere some

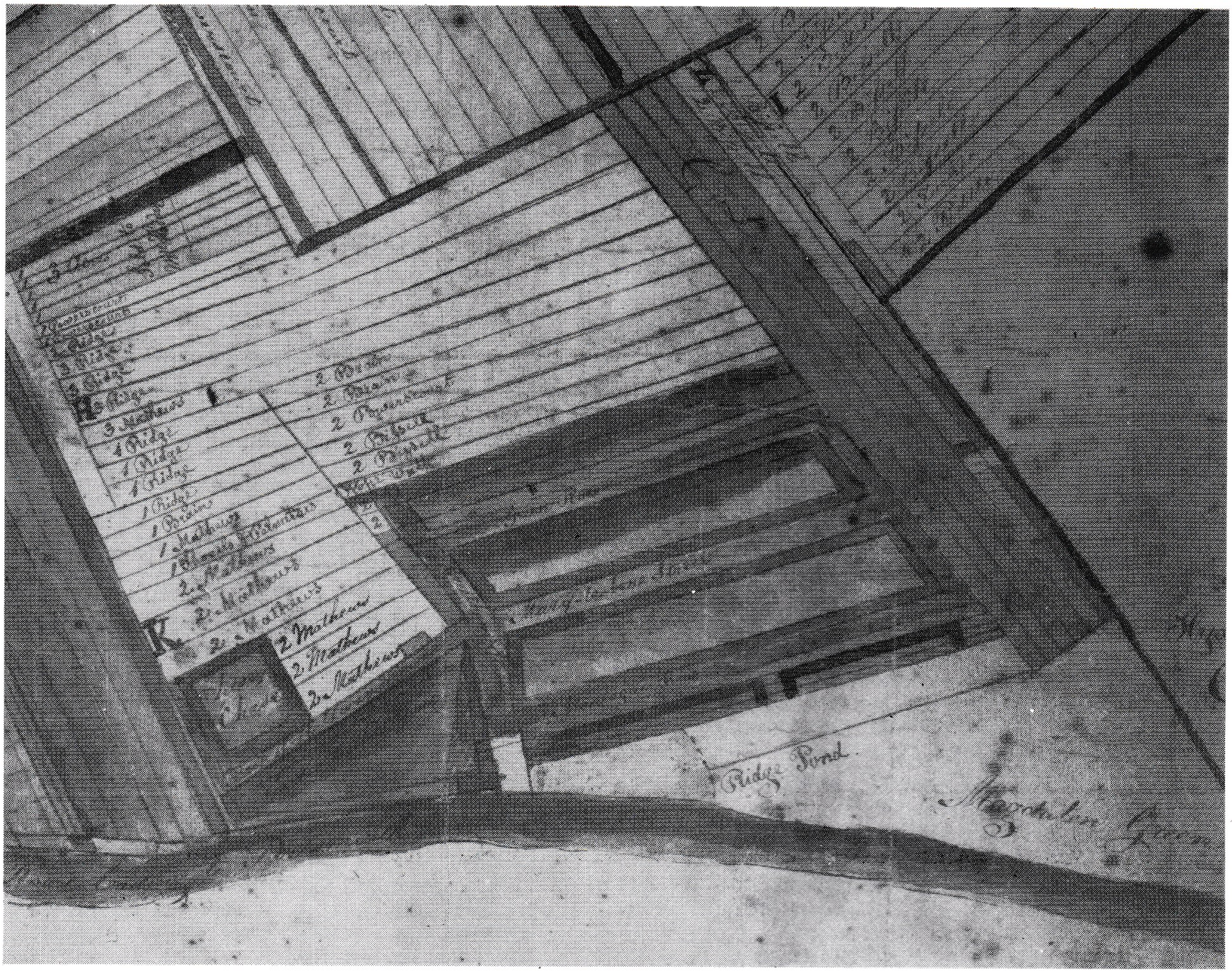


TOWN (OR MERE) FIELD ABOUT 1800 – The gradual disintegration which affected several of the fields is well shown here. Several of the strips have already been converted directly into streets, thus preserving their line, and another is specifically marked as being sold for building purposes. The 'turnpike' of the map is now Commercial Road, and Lake Lane has been renamed Lake Road.

distance away. The site of Portsmouth itself was almost certainly taken from the common waste of Buckland, the Portsmouth Common of later centuries being a relic, and the shores of Portsmouth Harbour provided yet more, of which the later Stamshaw was a remnant. There was in addition an area known as Kingston Common or Town Heath. This last area was the subject of a dispute over common rights, following its purchase in 1670[34]. The new owner attempted to prohibit access, but a judgement of 1672 confirmed the rights and prohibited their abolition[35]. Portsmouth Common was open to the inhabitants of Buckland and Kingston, as a casual reference in 1618 reveals, and could be used for the pasturing of sheep and pigs as well as cattle. Sheep grazing rights, however, were restricted to those who were freeholders or burgesses[36]. Other rights were also exercised, though their extent is less certain. One was the digging of clay and earth from the common, a right again restricted to freeholders and burgesses[37], and one which became increasingly important in the building boom of the eighteenth century.

The Forest of Bere was a much less usual type of common. This substantial tract of waste was available to a large number of communities in south-east Hampshire, including all those on Portsea Island. Such rights must have existed prior to the creation of the forest after the Norman Conquest and were therefore allowed to continue in spite of the imposition of Forest Law. They were temporarily withdrawn during a period of tinkering with the legal status of the forest in the fourteenth century, but were restored by a charter of Edward III in 1347[38]. Initially the stock appear to have been able to roam freely over the whole area, but in 1393 a specific sector at Portchester was separated off by ditches, and Portsea Manor's rights were then theoretically restricted to this area, known as Portsea Sewood or Westwood[39]. From then on the rights continued to be used, until their final abolition, by Parliamentary Act, in 1810[40].

The disappearance of Portsmouth's common lands was a confused and ill-documented process. Although formal Parliamentary sanction was sought for the enclosure of the fields, it applied only to



Beeston and Pitcroft, and the others vanished without even a written agreement. As late as 1696 the courts were still attempting to prevent enclosure, for there was a presentment for illegally fencing off part of Pesthouse Field at 'Ragge Gate'[41], but by then the system was in decay. West Dock Field had already lost four of its furlongs and parts of two others for dockyard fortifications in 1667[42], and in the last years of the century the settlement known as 'The Common' rapidly over-ran both the field and the neighbouring Portsmouth Common. West Dock Field effectively ceased to exist in 1710, when a further substantial area was compulsorily purchased to allow the growing settlement to be fortified[43], although a little enclosed agricultural land persisted briefly.

Fountain and Mere Fields crumbled in the same way in the face of relentless urban pressure. The former had a handful of buildings on its southern fringe by 1710, and lost a substantial strip along its western fringe in the compulsory purchase of that year[44]. Thereafter it was steadily eroded from south to north by further building, and seems to have ceased to exist as a field by 1838, though the name 'Pesthouse Field' occurs on a map of 1845[45]. Mere Field was affected by ribbon development along what was to become Commercial Road from the late seventeenth century[46], but was not seriously disrupted until side streets began to be developed in the late eighteenth century[47]. This was the start of the large-scale development known as Landport, and Mere Field in turn rapidly contracted. It remained as late as 1838, but in a very fragmentary form, and was gone shortly afterwards[48].

Havencroft disappeared in more mysterious circumstances. It appears on de Gomme's map of 1668[49], but its ideal location adjoining the town led to an early specialisation in vegetables for the urban market, and grazing rights and traditional rotations simply lapsed. There was no written agreement, there was simply no attempt to enforce the rules against the enclosers, and within a brief period the field had gone.

Meteland, more remote from the urban centre, followed Mere Field at a slightly later date. Cherry Garden Row was built by 1773[50], and buildings

appeared near All Saints Church between 1784 and 1797[51], but much of the field remained intact in 1838, though by that date it, too, was rapidly disintegrating. The adjacent Smaldron Field disappeared about 1770[52], while Balches Croft, which was present in 1795, had gone by 1823[53]. Rudmore also vanished between 1795 and 1823.

Finally, the two fields furthest from the centre of activity, Beeston and Pitcroft, were covered by a private enclosure act of 1817. Both the award itself and also the minutes of the public meetings held by the Commissioner, Robert Gills, remain, as does a footpath award of 1818[54]. By 1822 Beeston Field consisted of 137 acres[55], of which just under two acres were sold by the Commissioner to cover expenses. 18 owners shared the remainder, in amounts ranging from 22½ acres for Winchester College to 5 perches for R. Jousling. Thus what was probably one of Portsmouth's first common fields came formally to an end. Pitcroft had by this time been reduced to a mere 10 acres and was split amongst five owners, one of whom, Winchester College, had also received part of Beeston.

As for the common pastures, only the Forest of Bere underwent enclosure in any proper legal form. Portsmouth Common was encroached for building purposes, as already mentioned, and other scraps of common land vanished in a similar way. Part of Stamshaw Common was taken for saltpans in the late eighteenth century[56], and part by the military authorities for use as a powder magazine during the Napoleonic Wars[57]. The Forest, however, was enclosed by an act passed in 1810, the award finally being confirmed in 1815[58]. It is impossible to identify any specifically Portsmouth or even Portsea Island section of the award, but many Portsea residents can be distinguished amongst those involved. Indeed at the first sale in 1810, when the residences of the purchasers were recorded, only one of the five, James White of Purbrook, did not live on the island. Thus although the common rights came to an end, many island farms acquired instead blocks of land off the island, and these split farms remained a feature as long as Portsea contained any agricultural land.

The Fratton System

Fratton, or Froddington as it was known until recent times, also possessed a full range of commons and common fields, though the early enclosure of the latter means that information is less freely available. As with Buckland it is tempting to postulate an initial two field system, for Fratton was also bordered by two large fields lying east and west of the village, and known as East and St Andrew's Field respectively. The other two, Hambrook and West Fields, lay at some distance from the village on the edge of Southsea Common and have the appearance of later additions reclaimed from an originally more extensive waste. The latter is recorded in the 1379 rental of Portsea, but Hambrook appears solely as a furlong name, and it is possible that this, the most remote field from the village, was not fully reclaimed by that date[59].

Further evidence of additions to the system may be provided by North and South Breach, an area of about 11½ acres adjacent to Southsea Common[60]. At enclosure they were treated simply as part of East Field, but they were listed in the 1379 rental as separate entities and appear in another medieval document in a list of common pastures[61]. The implication, particularly in view of the name, is that they were reclaimed from Southsea Common at some date after the bulk of East Field and used initially as a fenced off common pasture. However, later demand for more arable land could be met only by expansion in a southerly direction and the Breaches were absorbed into the adjoining field.

Information as to rotations is entirely lacking. The fields are consistently referred to as 'the common field of Fratton' but nowhere is it specified that they were subject to common rotations. It seems most likely that they were, and that, as in Buckland, with which this manor was closely associated, the field was the rotation unit, for the furlongs appear to have been of little importance. There is, however, no definite proof of these assertions. They were certainly subject to grazing rights, for a copy of a medieval document records that all tenants of the manor of Fratton and also tenants of the Keeper of God's House had rights of common over the land of the unnamed proprietor for the whole year, when they were not sown. The lands concerned included parts of South Breach and either Hambrook or West Fields[62], and there is no reason to suppose that other field lands were any different.

The status of Northcroft and Bordecroft is obscure. Early documents refer to holdings in these areas in the same terms as those in the open fields[63], but they were apparently already held in severalty by the time of the enclosure. It is possible that they

were initially common meadow or pasture, but that this status was abolished in the medieval period.

As for common waste, Fratton was very well equipped, with the extensive area of Southsea Common[64], in addition to rights in a section of the Forest of Bere from Rowlands Castle to Masling Ford[65]. The latter was, of course, shared with other manors right up to enclosure, but the former gradually became accepted as the exclusive property of Fratton. In the Middle Ages tenants of Domus Dei, Portsmouth, had rights there as well[66], but the Enclosure Commissioners of 1785 confirmed the view of contemporary witnesses that only Fratton landholders had valid claims[67]. The witnesses also listed the rights to which the Common was subject, and it is possible to get a clear picture of the importance of the area to the village economy.

Pasture rights, it was asserted, were not subject to any stint and cattle could wander freely and 'eat what they can find'. Animals also benefited from the right of farmers to collect fern for bedding, while the arable side of farming must have been greatly helped by the rights to collect seaweed for manure and sand to lighten the land. The right to cut sedges for thatching purposes was very much valued, and the availabilty of sand for building purposes was another useful feature for the peasant farmer. All these rights had a clear relevance to a subsistence farming community, but by the eighteenth century they were being viewed in a rather different light. Market gardeners, producing vegetables for the Portsmouth market, found the sand invaluable in preparing the land for crops such as radishes and 'Colluf Flowers', and were removing it in large quantities[68]. Similarly, the use of sand for local building purposes had been expanded into a major industry by professional builders, who supplied much of the material used in the construction of Portsea. The Surveyor of Highways claimed that in addition some 60 loads of shingle were removed each year for the repair of the roads.

Other rights in the area were at the personal disposal of the lord of the manor and, as the Lord was the Crown, were leased out rather than exploited personally. Thus, according to a survey of 1629, the fishing rights in the area had been leased to the Captain of Southsea Castle for life[69]. So, too, had the use of a rabbit warren established on the Common on the Lord's authority. The latter dated back to the Middle Ages, for it had originally been granted to the Master of Domus Dei in 1307[70].

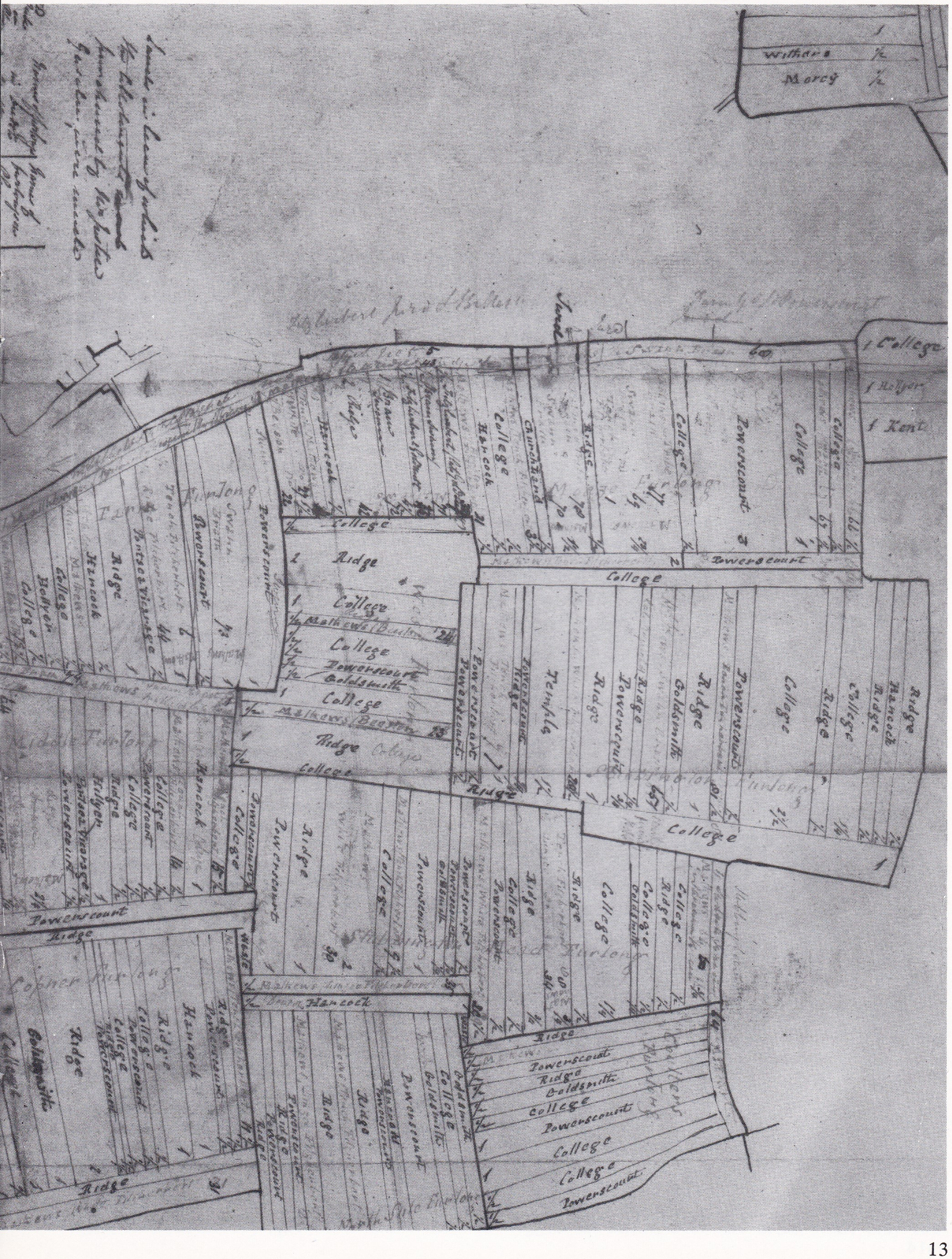
The enclosure of Fratton was carried out in two stages, an enclosure by agreement of the fields in 1600, and an Act of Parliament for Southsea Common in 1785. Unfortunately the surviving copy of the former has been partly obliterated[71], and no map exists, but it is possible to attempt a reconstruction from what remains legible and with the aid of later maps, such as the Desmaretz map[72].

The reason why enclosure was carried out at this particular time is not immediately apparent. Ostensibly the objective was to clarify the jurisdictions of the manors of Fratton and Portsea, which were held by the Queen and Robert Bold respectively. The real reason, for most of the parties involved, is more likely to have been a desire to be free of common field restrictions in order to exploit the growing Portsmouth market more effectively.

In addition to the two lords of the manor, 19 individuals were involved in the Fratton enclosure, of whom four, including the vicar, are mentioned as having freehold land[73]. One, Thomas Stubber, also leased some land and had become a freeholder by buying out Henry Chaterton while the enclosure was in progress. As with so many enclosures, the result was not to eliminate scattered farms. Eight of the proprietors had their land split amongst three of the four fields[74], and, although eight other holdings were concentrated within a single field only the two smallest, those of Richard Elton (1 acre) and Richard Knowles (4 acres), were in a single allotment. Doubtless the situation was an improvement on what had gone before, but even quite small holdings were left fragmented.

Southsea Common was not incorporated in the enclosure, possibly because of the complexity of dealing with a multitude of conflicting interests in the same ground, possibly also because it was not seen as being capable of agricultural improvement at that time, and there was therefore little point in going through the difficult procedure of trying to get agreement. However, by the mid eighteenth century, as has already been mentioned, the area was valued more highly, and the right-owners may well have feared that excessive exploitation by outsiders would destroy the area unless something was done.

The award was made in two parts, an initial one of 1785 and a second in the following year. The first dealt purely with Samuel Leake, the lord of the manor and principal landowner, who received the Little Morass, the beach, and Craneswater Marsh[75]. The remaining 374 acres were dealt with in the second award, which involved 41 claimants, including Samuel Leake again[76]. Leake received by far the biggest allotment, over 130 acres, while only two


Withers ½
Mercy ½
1 College
1 Hollyer
1 Kent
College
Powerscourt
Ridge
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Centre pages:
BEESTON FIELD ABOUT 1816 – This map was probably drawn as a preparation for the enclosure of 1817. It illustrates the scattered nature of each owner's lands prior to enclosure, and shows the grouping of the strips into furlongs. Alternative names for many of these furlongs are recorded in the key. The main road shown is now Kingston Road, and St Mary's Road formed the southern boundary.

others were larger than 30 acres[77]. At the other end of the scale, 20 allotments were under an acre in size.

The enclosure encountered two principal problems. Firstly, Southsea Castle was situated on part of the Common, and for military reasons restrictions were placed by the Act on the building of banks or fences close to it. This problem was overcome by arranging for Samuel Leake's allotment to cover the area concerned and by paying him substantial compensation, £3,808, for the restrictions on his freedom of action[78]. The second problem was that of the Great Morass, for there were considerable doubts as to whether it would ever be economic to drain it. In this case the Commissioner took the somewhat unusual course, for a lowland enclosure, of making certain clauses permissive rather than compulsory. Regulations for drainage ditches were detailed in the award, but were only to be activated in the event of the proprietors deciding to reclaim the area. There was, however, no provision for the allotments to remain open, and Southsea Common thus ceased, legally, to be common land.

The Milton System

Milton fields survived longer than those of Fratton and yet, paradoxically, less information is available. In part this derives from the fact that the fields were dismantled piecemeal, and, although a formal enclosure agreement was made, this covered only the remnants of a formerly more extensive system. Thus a lease of 1652 refers to a close called Domer[79], and one of 1691 to a close called Long Acres in Domer[80], at a time when Domer Common Field was still in operation. The field must once have included both closes, and have been more than treble the 21½ acres which remained at enclosure. Furthermore, the Fratton enclosure records many allotments in East Field as abutting on Milton common fields, whereas the lands enclosed in 1693 could not have lain in this location.

Milton had six fields: East, West, South Town, Domer, Sendram and Crana. By 1693 the first three were very much larger than the rest, but there is no reason to suppose that this was a long-standing distinction, for the addition of the closes already referred to would raise Domer to 73½ acres, only marginally smaller than South Town[81]. Nor is there anything in the location to suggest that some were more important than others. They do not show the pattern described for Buckland and Fratton, with two large fields encircling the village, and there is nothing to indicate the order in which the fields were created.

It is also difficult to determine how the fields were organised. From the care taken in the seventeenth century to distinguish between the open field proper and areas within it devoted to, say, meadowland[82], it is clear that the fields were arable, and it is likely that a common rotation operated. However, the presence of these areas of other use can only mean either that the resting of parts of the field under grass was an accepted practice, or that by the mid seventeenth century individuals were being allowed to flout the normal rotation. If the latter is the case, it may well be that this was the mechanism by which the fields were disintegrating, for once an owner had been allowed to break from the rotation and control his own area of the land, it was only a short step to fencing it off permanently.

By 1813 Milton's common wastes totalled 181 acres, an acre of which was Milton village green and 13½ acres Velder Heath[83]. The remaining 166½ acres were in reality a single common, though local practice made a distinction between the northern, or Milton, section and the southern, or Eastney, one. There is evidence that this major common, like the fields, had been markedly more extensive, for the Holley map of about 1750 marks a number of fields as broken and seeded common[84]. However, it seems that this reclaiming activity was confined to the eighteenth century, for prior to that the common fields directly adjoined the common[85], and there is no reason to suppose that the fields had been extended since the Middle Ages. The grazing rights were stinted according to the land held in the common fields, at a rate of four horses, six cows and forty sheep per thirty acres, but in later times this was felt to be 'an overstock and a burthen' and at the field enclosure the opportunity was taken to reduce the number of animals[86]. It was agreed to maintain the same rate for cattle, but those for horses and sheep were cut by half. They remained in this new form until the commons themselves were enclosed in 1813. There were also, apparently, certain limited rights attached to local cottages or smallholdings, for these were compensated for at enclosure.

Milton, like Fratton, was enclosed in two parts, the fields by agreement and the commons much later by Act of Parliament. The agreement was in 1693, and took the form of a series of sales and resales of land with the ultimate objective of reassembling the

holdings into compact blocks[87]. One owner, John Suffeild, was compensated with a close in Buckland, and the remaining six divided the 294 acres of fields amongst themselves. It is interesting to note that only two of these six, John Higgins and Bartholemew Stubber, were Milton residents and represented the local yeoman farmer population. Peter Bacon, a Fratton resident, was also described as a yeoman, and should perhaps be regarded as a 'local farmer' for he could quite easily have run lands in Milton from Fratton. The other three were in a different category, for they were clearly not farming the land themselves, and their occupations were given as mercer, baker and shipwright. Whether they had inherited their land from farming ancestors in Milton or bought it as an investment cannot be determined. The only one resident off Portsea Island, Cornelius Purnell, a Deptford shipwright, had inherited his share, but as his predecessor, Hezechiel Purnell, was a Portsmouth shipwright, no connection with Milton has been established. Regardless of how they had acquired the land, the fact that these men were absentee landowners may well have played a part in encouraging enclosure, for they could hardly have had that personal attachment to specific pieces of land which is often supposed to have hindered the process.

The commons of Milton, specifically retained by a clause in the agreement, were eventually enclosed in 1813 under the authority of an act of 1810. The recent encroachments on the commons had shown that they were 'capable of considerable improvement'[88], and it was felt that division of the land between the individual proprietors was an essential prerequisite of an ordered programme of reclamation. The 18 allottees can be split sharply into two groups, those with less than two roods of land and those with over an acre. The former, eight in all, appear to have been the cottage group referred to earlier, and were compensated mainly by allotments on Milton Green; the latter were presumably those claiming in respect of the old open field lands, plus the lord of the manor[89]. Most of the larger allotments were split, in four cases between Velder Heath and the Common proper, and the largest, that assigned to the trustees of the Reverend William White, was in nine pieces, though some of these adjoined each other[90].

A much greater area of this land turned out to be improvable than was the case with Southsea Common, and was rapidly absorbed for use as improved pasture. On the other hand, a substantial part proved intractable, and, although now in individual ownership, changed little in appearance or use. It was not until well into the twentieth century that this land finally succumbed, not to agriculture but to the voracious appetite for building land.

The Copnor System

The Copnor system is the least documented of any on the island. The rental of 1379, which contains by far the fullest account, is torn, and close reading of the text suggests omissions and inaccuracies, possibly introduced when the extant copy was made in the sixteenth century[91]. Furthermore, the recording of the holdings is not consistent, for furlong and field names are intermixed, and it is extremely difficult to determine the precise status of a number of the areas mentioned. Particular problems arise with Ketemarsh and Conigar Heath. Both are recorded as if they had intermixed strips, and a reference occurs to 'the north furlong' of the latter, strongly implying that they were open fields. They are also listed amongst the common fields in another document of medieval origin[92]. Unfortunately the latter document now exists only in a highly garbled modern version, and the 1379 rental is not wholly reliable, so the absence of any reference elsewhere to these areas as common fields must leave a question-mark against their status. A possible explanation is that Conigar Heath was a common waste in the process of encroachment for arable purposes, for a map made long after enclosure distinguishes between areas known as Conigar Fields and Conigar Heath[93]. What is clear is that Copnor possessed at least five common fields, 'Burgh'[94], South, West, Garston, and Breach, with a possibility that Ketmarsh and Conigar may have made the total up to seven. The anonymous transcript just mentioned also records a 'Mydmuslemore', but in view of the absence of anything remotely resembling this in any other document, and the undoubted errors elsewhere in the transcription, this must be regarded with the greatest suspicion.

It seems likely that Bur, South and West Fields represented an early core of the system, with Garston and Breach as later extensions[95]. Encroachment at the expense of Ketemarsh and Conigar Heath may well have been in progress in 1379, and have given rise, in the latter case, to Conigar Field in the later Middle Ages. Stubbington Farm, as far as can be determined, never at any stage formed part of the communal fields.

The Copnor fields were undoubtedly common in the sense of being subject to communal grazing rights, and the little evidence available suggests a common rotation. The extant list of rights[96] distinguishes between those in operation in fields which were cropped and those which were fallow, and a further clause notes the right of the lord to turn loose his cattle once the corn had been cut. The implication is that the whole field was either under corn or under fallow.

The pasture rights are listed in detail, and show some complexity. Between the Feast of St Peter ad Vincula (1 August) and that of the Annunciation (25 March) the fields were unstinted, and manorial tenants could depasture all their stock. The fallow field, however, was stinted during the summer months at the rate of 1 ram and 16 sheep per 16 acres, or 1 ram and 8 sheep per 8. As has already been mentioned, the lord of the manor had pasture rights over the tenants' field holdings as well once the crop had been removed.

The status of Goslingscroft and Brandwynscroft, both of which were in fragmented occupance in 1379, cannot now be determined. There is no suggestion that they were common fields, and it is possible that they may have been common meadow land. On the other hand, it is equally likely that they were merely substantial tracts of land which, by inheritance or some other means, had become internally subdivided. Certainly no common grazing rights on these areas have been traced.

Copnor also possessed common waste or pasture, for fines for overstocking it are recorded in the surviving Court Baron records[97], as are minor regulations, such as the requirement that hogs be yoked[98]. Unfortunately neither the location nor the names given to the area survive, nor do details of the permitted rate of stocking. Some, at least, of the common almost certainly lay alongside Langstone Harbour, probably in a continuous strip from Hilsea Common in the north to Velder Heath in the south, and may have been partly destroyed by the creation of the Salterns. Conigar Heath was certainly a part of this[99] and logic suggests that Ketemarsh must also have been a part, at least initially. The situation is further complicated by the existence of an area known as the Warren, identical in meaning to Conigar, and apparently part of the common.

The elimination of Copnor's common lands was a piecemeal process without any formal agreement, and hence it is difficult to determine precisely when the last scraps disappeared. In a number of cases it is by no means clear from the references whether a common field was intended or whether by then the name applied to enclosed land. A reference to 'Copnor sometimes fields' in the Court Baron records of 1651 implies that they had gone completely by that date, and a reference to 'two closes called West Field' in 1621 indicates that that field had already been enclosed. Burfield had apparently gone by 1609[100], but a reference in 1599 could be read as indicating that it was then still present[101]. Plaine, a part of Ketemarsh, was recorded as a close in 1597[102]. As a broad generalisation, it would seem that the common fields disappeared during the course of the sixteenth century, while parts of the common straggled on into the seventeenth century and eighteenth, being largely taken over for salt-pans.

The Hilsea System

The small settlement of Hilsea was the centre of the final group of fields on the island. The enclosure award of 1815 lists seven[103], though it is interesting to note that a map of 1805, which includes a list of landowners, shows two of these, Seedlip and Bittlesome, combined in a single unit[104]. A 'Breach Field' is also recorded in eighteenth century documents[105], but this was almost certainly an alternative name.

It seems likely that the three fields grouped round the village[106] represented the original core of the system, and that the others, more remote and jutting out into the waste, represented later extensions. If this is so, it would be logical to assume that Garston Field (46 acres) represented the first stage of expansion, followed by Seedlip-Bittlesome (53 acres), and finally East (50 acres). East Field, located in a very unsuitable position, far from the village and breaking the otherwise continuous line of marshy common bordering Langstone Harbour, shows all the signs of a very late addition. It appears on La Favelure's map as 'Hulsey East Sidde Common. Arrable common'[107], and it is highly likely that it had only just been reclaimed during the last years of the sixteenth century and had not yet been formally absorbed into the common fields.

The fields were persistently described as common arable, and there seems little doubt that they once operated a common rotation, but whether this survived until enclosure is open to doubt. Certainly, if they did then the rotations were extended to include a grass course, for eighteenth century maps usually

SITE OF PITCROFT FIELD – Although part of Pitcroft Field was enclosed by Act of Parliament, building lines still seem to have followed the lines of the former strips. The curve of Pitcroft Road, shown here, is characteristic of the shape of the strips, which swerved towards their ends to allow easier turning of the plough teams.

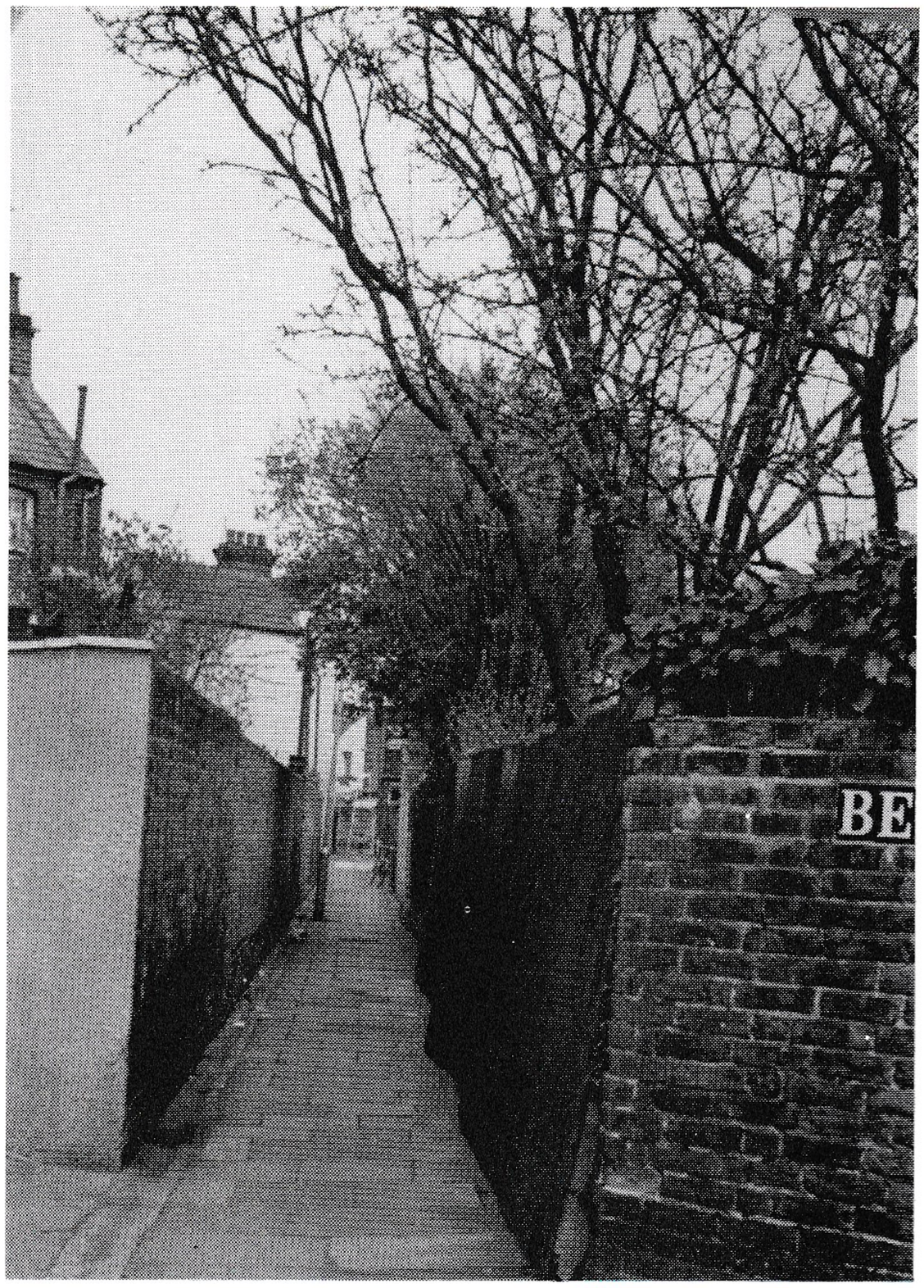
show one or two fields under this land use[108]. No evidence can be detected of particular groupings of fields for rotation purposes, for even the apparent linking of Seedlip and Bittlesome, mentioned earlier, cannot be relied upon. They are always shown as separate fields in other sources, and Mackenzie's map quite clearly shows them under different land use. The absence of early documentary sources inhibits further investigation and makes conclusions purely speculative.

Hilsea's common pastures and common wastes were most extensive for a small village. Close to the village itself lay Hilsea Green which, with an area of just over 25 acres, was much larger than the traditional village green and probably served as a stinted pasture, intended originally for plough animals.' To the west lay a further common, extending to the shore of Portsmouth Harbour and then forming a narrow strip southwards to join up with the commons of neighbouring Copnor. A still larger common, Great Common, occupied a large band of marshy land along the north and east shores, fading southwards into the saltmarsh along Burfield Creek. It was from this that East Field was carved. Finally, inland at the head of Burfield Creek, lay Saltner Common, another low-lying marshy area.

In view of the size of the commons it is unlikely that any over-all stint was applied. Hilsea Green may have been stinted, and High Groves probably was, for it was earlier known as 'Horse-pasture Common' and was doubtless restricted to horses[109]. The remainder was essentially wasteland, differing from the neighbouring saltmarsh only in being marginally above, rather than below, high water mark. Here, stock must have roamed freely.

At first sight the enclosure of Hilsea was the tidiest of those on Portsea Island. Fields and commons were enclosed together in 1815 under the authority of an Act of Parliament of 1812, which also covered other parts of Wymering parish[110]. In fact, although the fields survived intact until that date, the commons had already been partly enclosed or encroached. Apart from the land absorbed into the common fields, there was also a section of common west of Hilsea Green which passed into individual ownership between 1785 and 1815[111]. The circumstances under which this happened are not clear, for no formal agreement survives, but it must have occurred prior to 1794, or have been with the unanimous consent of all parties, for no attempt was made to claim it as part of the common at enclosure, under the rule concerning encroachments of less than 21 years' standing.

The issue is further confused, rather than clarified,



PITCROFT LANE – An old right of way, originally allowing the inhabitants of Kingston and Buckland access to their lands at the opposite corner of Pitcroft Field. It was preserved at enclosure, and runs at a sharp angle across later streets such as Bevis Road (shown here). Further north it was later straightened to cross Derby Road at right angles, and the extreme northern end has disappeared.

by another surviving document. This records an agreement made in 1683 to divide 'Hilsea Common', also known as 'Hilsea Marsh', amongst the proprietors[112]. It includes detailed arrangements for such matters as the upkeep of the sea-walls, and contains a clause that the enclosure was to be completed by Michaelmas 1684. Ten individuals, representing the 11 interested parties, were signatories to the agreement. Unfortunately, it is not clear precisely which area was intended, nor is it certain that the agreement was actually carried out. It is possible that the land concerned lay in the western part of the township, which is shown in individual occupance on eighteenth century large-scale maps, but it is also possible that all or part of the common listed earlier was intended, and that for some reason the scheme was abandoned.

What is certain is that 226 acres[113] remained to be enclosed by Parliamentary action, along with 253 acres of common fields[114]. A mere 12 proprietors, including the lord of the manor, remained to share this land amongst them, and two of these, Viscount Powerscourt and the Vicar of Wymering were allotted only minimal amounts[115]. Among the several substantial allotments, the largest was that of Arthur Atherley, totalling 127.64 acres.

The preamble to the award stressed that the reason for enclosure was that the various properties 'lie dispersed and in small parcels so as to render the cultivation thereof extremely inconvenient', but, as in most enclosures, this problem was by no means completely solved in the redistribution. Five of the new holdings were in two or more physically detached blocks, and even where allotments to the same owner were actually contiguous, the shape of the resulting holding was hardly the most convenient for agricultural purposes. The actual carrying out of the enclosure ran into difficulties, for some of the new owners were slow in providing the necessary fencing, and it was not completed by the appointed date of 31 December 1813. The Commissioners were eventually obliged to threaten that, if any fences were still unmade by 5 March 1814, they themselves would assume responsibility and charge the bills to the owners. However, the process was eventually completed, and the award confirmed in 1815.

The Fields in Modern Portsea

It might seem that this study has been concerned purely with a vanished feature of the Portsmouth scene. In fact a good deal remains, embedded in the present urban landscape. Because the fields closest to the town were never formally enclosed, the builders of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were forced to follow the lines of the long narrow properties in the open fields. As Chalklin has pointed out[116], the layout of strips in East and West Dock Fields determined virtually the whole street pattern of Portsea, and the same is equally true of Landport. Until the recent redevelopment of the Guildhall area, the very heart of the city preserved, in the different alignments of streets such as Sussex, Marylebone and Belgrave Streets on the one hand and Surrey and Station Streets on the other, the changing furlong directions of Mere Field. Even now a few of these streets remain in part, though masked by new, and discordant, routeways.

Some of the field-paths still survive more-or-less intact in the modern city. Ancient rights of way, they were retained as enclosure proceeded, and remain today, distinguishable often by their eccentric course

across the modern streets. Pitcroft Lane is such a street. It once ran diagonally across Pitcroft Field, giving access to each owner's strips; now it cuts at a sharp angle across the parallel lines of later streets, truncating the corner properties of each in turn. Another is Church Path, which originated as a short cut through Mere Field for inhabitants of Portsmouth on their way to the distant parish church of St Mary. It, too, has maintained its original line against the trend of the later urban streets, and survives in fragmented form as Upper and Lower Church Paths and Church Road.

Finally, there are more subtle remnants, for hidden in modern Portsmouth names are references to the ancient fields. Burfields Road gives evidence of a long-gone field of Copnor, and Pitcroft Road preserves the name of Pitcroft Field even though, unlike Pitcroft Lane, it was not built until the field had gone. Beeston Street and Fountain Street also bear witness to the fields which formerly occupied their sites, while Rudmore is now represented both as a district name and as a number of streets, for example Rudmore Square. Even one of the former furlongs survives in this form, in Kingswell Street, behind the Commercial Road shopping centre. For those who look with care at the modern city, the ghosts of the rural past can still be seen.

NOTE ON THE AUTHOR

Dr John Chapman was born in Thornaby-on-Tees and spent his early life on Teesside and in East Yorkshire. His interest in the geography of the past developed during his undergraduate course at University College, London, and he went on to research in historical geography. He was awarded a PhD of the University of London in 1972 for his work on the agriculture of Monmouthshire. After being on the staff of the University of Bristol and Loughborough College of Education, he joined Portsmouth Polytechnic, then the College of Technology, as Lecturer in Geography in 1965, and is now a Senior Lecturer. He has published a number of articles on the historical geography of agriculture, and has contributed to the Atlas of Portsmouth and to the Portsmouth Geographical Essays series.

APPENDIX

List of furlong names.

Only in the Portsmouth and Fratton field-groups have furlong names been recorded in any numbers. Names, and possibly even boundaries, changed from time to time, so lists for different dates are given where these survive. Alternative names are given in brackets.

Portsmouth, Kingston and Buckland Group

BEESTON FIELD
Mid 17th Century
Copnor Furlong
Dodman
Furlong by Copnor Way
„ to Old Mead
Grayes
Grene
High
North Strete North
Pease
South Strete
Stubbington Furlong North
Water
With Red
Late 18th – Early 19th Century
Brickfield
Buckland (Baddam)
Copnor
Copnor North Stile
Copnor Path
Coulters
Deadman
East Merks
Hannams (North Murks)
Moaze
Moaze Farm (Long Moaze)
Murks (South Murks)
Purdy's
Short Middle (Malthouse)
Smock (Brickkiln)
Stubbington (North)
Stubbington Mead (Middle South)
West (Middle Copnor Path)

METELAND (CHERRY GARDEN, OR KINGSTON) FIELD
*Mid 17th Century**
Blackland
Boacrofte South

Close
Guslerware
Kingwell Field
Leake
Loake West
Metland Stile
Roddich
Shovell (possibly wrongly recorded)
St Andras
Late 18th Century
Beggars Bush
Black Path
Guslerware
Little
Lower Wet
Middle
Middle Short
Rooks Close
Smallden
Spring

*This list is wrongly headed Merfield, but may include some Mere Field furlongs.

PESTHOUSE (FOUNTAIN, OR EAST DOCK) FIELD
Mid 17th Century
Fountron
Full Sea
Gods House
Kingwell Crose West
Newgate
Ragsgate
Water
Wett
Late 18th Century
Great Wet
High Elm
Middle Wet
Pesthouse
Ragsgate
Short Wet

TOWN (MERE) FIELD
Late 18th Century
Broom
Church Path (Church)
Cold Harbour
Dog and Duck
Fratton (South-East)
Howard
Lake Lane (Half Mile)
Shepherd's Piece
Shovel (Suffield)
Wet

WEST DOCK FIELD
Bannisters
Blackthorn Bush
Catcliffe
Chilmarsh (Chillmor)
Crooked
Dock
Middle
Sea Mill
Thorough Acre

No furlong names survive for the other fields.

Fratton Group

The following furlongs can be assigned to specific fields:

EAST FIELD
Benegate
Breach Moor
Crabbe
Crouche
Darkes
Heales
Busshes
Hill Hedge
Mee
Sanawy
Street
Wish

ST ANDREWS FIELD
West

WEST FIELD
Touchhope

REFERENCES

CRO City Record Office, Portsmouth.
PPL Portsmouth Public Library.
WRO County Record Office, Winchester.
PRO Public Record Office.

[1] CRO 43A/1/6 and 43A/1/7.
[2] PPL, Maps 714.
[3] e.g. CRO G/MN/4 (1615).
[4] CRO G/MN/6.
[5] Town Field first appears in 1595 (WRO 5M53/733), but was little used before the eighteenth century. 'Murifield' appears in 1379 (CRO G/MN/1).
[6] Meteland Field appears in 1379 (CRO G/MN/1), Cherry Garden not until the mid eighteenth century. Kingston Field appears in 1492 (CRO CF4/2).
[7] Rudmore first appears in 1615 (CRO L2/8/1–4), Ropkins in 1469 (CRO CF4/1). The field was still described *Rudmore and Ratkins* in the 1790s (CRO G/MN/368).
[8] Fountain Field is recorded in 1492 (CRO CF4/2).
[9] The first reference to 'Dock Field' is in 1596 (loose sheet in (CRO L2/8/1).
[10] CRO L2/8/4.
[11] CRO 43A/1/18.
[12] G/MN/1 and PRO E178/2059.
[13] e.g. CRO G/MN/4 (1609).
[14] PPL, Maps 714.
[15] CRO G/MN/6.
[16] A. N. Y. Howell, *Topography of Portsmouth,* Portsmouth, 1913, p. 58, and R. East *Extracts from the Portsmouth Records* revised edition, Portsmouth, 1891, p. 666.
[17] Transcription of CRO G/MN/10 in East, *op. cit.,* p. 668.
[18] *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Hampshire,* reprint, London, 1973, vol. 3, p. 195.
[19] CRO L2/8/1–4.
[20] CRO CF4/2.
[21] CRO CF4/1.
[22] CRO 43A/1/2 (1659) mentions East Dock Field.
[23] e.g. List of landowners (1569) in CRO L2/8/1.
[24] From the Old English 'ryde' (a clearing) or 'breod' (a reed-bed) and 'mor' (a barren wasteland) See A. H. Smith *English Place-Name Elements,* Cambridge, 1956, vol. 2, p. 89, vol. 1, p. 264, and vol. 2, p. 42.
[25] CRO CF4/1.
[26] CRO L2/8/1–4, 1615.
[27] CRO L2/8/1–4.
[28] J. Chapman 'The Geographical Evolution of Portsmouth' in *Portsmouth Geographical Essays,* Portsmouth, 1974.
[29] CRO L2/8/4, 1697.
[30] CRO L2/8/1, 1680.
[31] W. G. Gates *History of Portsmouth,* Portsmouth, 1900, p. 104, *et. seq*. The Huish copy is now deposited at CRO 3A/1/1.
[32] R. East, *op. cit.,* p. 735.
[33] CRO CLC 4/13.
[34] WRO 5M50/1543.
[35] WRO 5M50/1552.
[36] CRO L2/8/1–4.
[37] *Ibid*.
[38] CRO G/MN/6.
[39] 'Westwood' is used in CF4/2.
[40] CRO 43A/2/9.
[41] CRO L2/8/1–4.
[42] PRO MPE 513.
[43] PRO MPHN 280.
[44] *Ibid*.
[45] Tithe Map and Map of Portsmouth and Portsey by J. Maynard.
[46] PPL 714.
[47] Development was quite marked by 1797 (Ordnance Survey 3 in. Drawing, 75W).
[48] It does not appear on maps of the late 1840s.
[49] PPL 714.
[50] PPL 6150.
[51] PPL 9153 and Ordnance Survey 3 in. Drawing 75W.
[52] It is not shown on PPL 6150 (1773).
[53] *See* CRO *A Survey of Certain Lands lying in the Common Fields, belonging to Thos Ridge Esq,* by J. Neale, and *Private plate engraved from a plan of J. Rickman.*
[54] WRO Q.E.2. 47a–514 and CRO CLC 4/13.
[55] 137a Or 18p.
[56] PPL 11069 (1802) shows the 'former saltpans'.
[57] PRO MPH 326 (1802).
[58] PRO CP43 926.
[59] CRO G/MN/1.
[60] CRO A/1/13/1/6/2.
[61] CRO G/MN/6.
[62] CRO G/MN/6.
[63] CRO G/MN/1.
[64] Sometimes divided into South Heath and East Heath.
[65] CRO G/MN/6.
[66] *Ibid*.
[67] CRO G/MN/92.
[68] CRO G/MN/92.
[69] CRO 94/A/1.
[70] W. G. Gates, *History of Portsmouth,* Portsmouth, 1900, p. 78.
[71] PRO E178 2059.
[72] PPL 7410.
[73] In a few cases the status is not legible.
[74] Stubber in all four, plus North Croft.
[75] CRO G/MN 236.
[76] One 'claimant' was in fact two individuals as joint owners.
[77] Richard Godman Temple (38–1–9) and Edward Grubb (35–1–17).
[78] CRO G/MN 242.
[79] CRO 43A/1/1.

[80] CRO G/MN 71 and 72.
[81] South Town was 80 acres (CRO 43A/1/7).
[82] See, e.g. CRO 43A/1/7.
[83] WRO Q.E.2 1–37. The areas given at the beginning of the award are overestimates.
[84] PPL 6144.
[85] For example CRO 43A/2/26 gives the former Sendrum Field as adjoining the common.
[86] CRO 43A/1/8.
[87] CRO 43A/1/6 and 43A/1/7.
[88] WRO Q.E.2 1–37.
[89] The 'lord of the manor' was actually three individuals who held the title jointly.
[90] This allotment totalled 48.96 acres.
[91] CRO G/MN/1.
[92] CRO G/MN/6.
[93] PPL 6149 (*c.* 1800).
[94] Later Bur.
[95] Garston (literally 'enclosure') was often used locally for a small additional common field.
[96] G/MN/10. Howell's date of 1613 refers to a copy, as references to the Lord Abbot of Titchfield show.
[97] CRO G/MN/6.
[98] CRO G/MN/3.
[99] PPL 6149.
[100] CRO G/MN/4.
[101] G/MN/3.
[102] WRO 5M53/733.
[103] WRO ENC 90a and b.
[104] PRO 1786 A.
[105] CRO G/MN/386 (1758).
[106] Ham (30 acres), North (30 acres) and Inn (44 acres) PRO 1786 A. The last is mislabelled Biddlecombe.
[107] PPL 5443 (*c.* 1600).
[108] e.g. Mackenzie shows East, Bittlesome and Ham under grass. PPL 9153.
[109] PPL 5443.
[110] WRO ENC 90a and b.
[111] It is present on CRO G/MN/365, a late eighteenth century map not earlier than 1785.
[112] WRO 5M50/1895.
[113] 225.93.
[114] WRO ENC 90a and b.
[115] 0.43 and 0.74 acres respectively.
[116] C. W. Chalklin, *The Provincial Towns of Georgian England,* London, 1974, p. 123, *et seq*.

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